

REMARKS

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372 to one of the following groups:

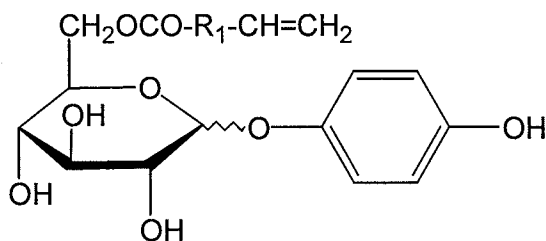
- Group I: claim(s) 1-17, drawn to an arbutin ester derivative and the process for producing said derivative.
- Group II: claim(s) 18-22, drawn to the tyrosinase inhibitor represented by formula 20.
- Group III: claim(s) 23-31, drawn to a tyrosinase activity promoter.
- Group IV: claim(s) 32-36, drawn to the process for producing an ester, comprising esterifying hydroxyl-containing compound(s) with fatty acid(s) or derivative(s) thereof.

Response to Restriction Requirement

In response to the restriction requirement set forth in the communication, Applicant elects Group I, encompassing claims 1-17, drawn to an arbutin ester derivative and the process for producing said derivative.

Election of Species

With respect to election of species, the Applicants elect the compound of Formula 2:



wherein R_1 is a single bond.

Claims 1 and 2 read on the elected species. Applicants understand that, upon allowance of a generic claim, applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species, which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141.

No Disclaimers or Disavowals

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, the Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather,

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any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. The Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that the Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

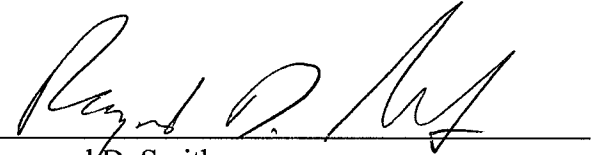
CONCLUSION

Should there be any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned agent at the telephone number appearing below. Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 14 February 2008

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